

### **What is Pesticide Containment?**

Webster's dictionary states containment has the ability to keep within limits, to have capacity for, or to hold. Perhaps a better way of defining containment is a structure designed and built to contain any product, in this case pesticide, when a spill or unauthorized release occurs.

### **Why do we need containment?**

There are many benefits associated with the proper use of pesticides, but these benefits are quickly forgotten when an improper use of pesticide has occurred. We have all seen the after effects of pesticides when they are misapplied or spilled. The unseen after effects are even worse, no one wants to have their drinking water contaminated by pesticides.

When a containment system is designed and used properly, a spilled pesticide product can be contained and recovered before the product is capable of contaminating adjoining soil and water resources.

Proper containment is a win – win situation for the facility owner, as the reclaimed pesticide can be used as intended with little loss of product. In addition, environmental contamination did not occur, a costly remediation of the surrounding area

has been avoided, valuable natural resources and property values have been protected.

### **When is containment required?**

Whenever pesticide products are stored in bulk capacities, containment is required. There are limited exceptions to this rule, but first, we need to determine what is bulk capacity. Pursuant to K.A.R. 4-13-25b, when any quantity of a pesticide is stored in a container larger than 55 gallons liquid measure or 100 pounds net dry weight, the product is now being stored in "bulk" capacity.

Secondary containment is required when the aggregate amount of bulk chemicals reaches the threshold of 1,000 gallons for liquid or 3,000 pounds for dry, in a 365-day period.

### **Exemptions**

The mobile container exemption allows a container with the capacity of 350 gallons or less to be stored at a specific location 60 days or less. **To qualify for this exemption the pesticide must be applied by the owner or lessee of the property.**

For a complete list of the exemptions to the pesticide secondary containment requirement, refer to K.A.R. 4-13-25a.

### **Secondary Containment Requirements**

K.A.R. 4-13-25d states a secondary containment system must hold 110% of the largest container being utilized by the facility. If your load pad is incorporated into or a part of your secondary containment facility, the largest container may be your storage container or tank, but the size of any of the mobile tanks and delivery transports must also be considered in your determination of the largest container.

When your facility is required to have secondary containment, a load/unload or mixing pad is also required. The load pad may be incorporated into or be a part of the secondary containment system or be an independent structure. If the load pad is independent of your storage facility, the load pad must also be able to handle 110% of the largest container, tank or transport. If your facility already has an existing fertilizer load pad that meets these requirements, it can also be utilized for your pesticide load pad, but all rinsates and residues recovered from the load pad must be treated as a pesticide product.

### **Secondary containment options**

Many design options will meet or exceed the secondary containment requirements. The facility owner or operator will need to review their geographic layout, operational needs, and possible expansion options to determine which

design will work best for them. The type of construction materials used in your containment system can vary, but all materials, including storage containers and appurtenances, must be chemically compatible with the pesticide products you will be storing.

Additional items such as, security, employee safety and vehicle traffic patterns should be considered when designing your secondary containment system.

#### **Application Process**

Once you have determined containment is required for your pesticide operations, an application and proposed plan must be submitted to the KDA, Pesticide & Fertilizer Program. KDA will review your completed application to ensure your proposed secondary containment system meets the requirements stated in K.A.R. 4-13-25c through K.A.R. 4-13-25f. The application form is available from our web site [www.agriculture.ks.gov](http://www.agriculture.ks.gov) or by requesting a copy from our office. The application has directions and information concerning the completion of the application.

There is no charge to submit a pesticide secondary containment application to KDA.

#### **Facility Maintenance**

K.A.R. 4-13-25j specifies the required maintenance and inspection criteria that must be performed at least every month and documented on a form provided by KDA. This form is available from our web site [www.agriculture.ks.gov](http://www.agriculture.ks.gov) or by requesting a copy from our office.

#### **Reportable Events**

K.A.R. 4-13-25 defines a reportable event as any discharge of pesticide outside of secondary containment or any defect in any part of secondary containment that poses an imminent threat to public health or safety or that could cause environmental damage. The event must be reported to KDA within 48 hours.

#### **Need Assistance?**

KDA encourages you to contact our office with any questions you may have concerning pesticide storage, secondary containment or the application process.

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# Pesticide Secondary Containment



**Pesticide & Fertilizer  
Program**

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